

maranatha newsletter

Our prayer is, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

Issue: 122 July 2010
Internet edition

CRISIS

A time of opportunity

The crisis we are now facing in our nation is the consequence of the ways in which we have turned away from God over the last half-century. Looking through human eyes we would easily become depressed and even despairing as we read of endless bad news in our newspapers and hear of fellow Christians being punished for proclaiming their faith. We are horrified at the news of disasters, wars, irrational violence and the abuse of children. However, if we open our eyes and ears to the Spirit of God, we hear Him urging us to *"return to me with all your heart..."* (Joel 2.12). **We believe that God wants to reveal His glory in and through His people at this time of crisis.** With the Psalmist we proclaim *"You have exalted above all things Your Name and Your Word"* (Ps. 138.2) and we pray that the Name of Jesus and the Word of God will be exalted once again in our nation.

We believe that God has raised up the Maranatha Community over the years and that we have an important role to play *'for such a time as this'*. God has instilled within us a love for the whole Church of Christ and we have experienced the fusion of the breath of the Holy Spirit in all the different traditions, in spite of our sin and weakness. Perhaps it is because of this that God has called us to be a vehicle of alignment in the Body of Christ. **Every single person in the Maranatha Community has a vital role to play right now.** Each one of us can positively influence those with whom we live, work and worship, the people that God has placed around us. This is our commission - we are called to be life-givers. Just as small iron filings are brought into alignment by a magnet, so we as little brothers and sisters of Jesus are aligned as His Name and His Word are exalted in us. Through us others too will be aligned.

We are called to be messengers of hope - we have a God whose nature is merciful and who has promised that, *"If my people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land"* (2 Chron. 7.14).

PRAYER WEEK 18th-25th Sept A Week of Prayer for the Church and Nation

In the face of our national situation we have decided to call the whole Maranatha Community to a Week of Prayer. We are urging all Maranatha Groups and Prayer Cells to gather during this week and also urge individual members to arrange times of prayer to which friends and church members may be invited.

This week has been set aside as a retreat for prayer at Kalah House, Helmsdale, Scotland. Places are still available for those who would wish to pray in quietness in the beautiful surroundings of Sutherland, which is a special place of prayer.

God's Word makes it clear that the future of a nation can be changed by the humble prayer of God's people in that land. **We, as the people of God in the United Kingdom, have the opportunity and the power to make a difference to the future of our nation.** Therefore, let us, as little brothers and sisters of Jesus, take God at His Word and humble ourselves and pray and seek His face in repentance for the sake of our children and all the future generations of this land.

A programme of prayer and a pack of resources is available from the Maranatha office on request.

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The Time is Now

*There comes a time when the silence
must be broken and a voice raised up
to wake us from our sleep.*

*There comes a time when ears
which have not heard will be unblocked
to hear the warning cry.*

*There comes a time when eyes
for long accustomed to the dark
will see a bright and shining light.*

*There comes a time when comfortable
apathy will be disturbed,
when truths will dawn upon us,
shattering our preconceptions, removing
our defences, our excuses, our masks,
and the barricades behind which we hide.*

*There comes a time when the edifice
of our godlessness must collapse,
when the dark shadows which corrupt
our lives will blow away
when the glory of God's face
will be revealed and the spirit
of the age unmasked. That time is now.*

(DW -1996)

Alignment - an image of righteousness

In the Maranatha Community we believe that God has recently given us the word 'alignment'. As we explore what this word means for us biblically we are drawn to the word righteousness. In the Bible, the word righteousness is associated with Godliness. It implies a character which is 'upright', or, put another way, someone whose life is 'aligned' with the will of God.

The writers of the Psalms proclaim that it is the Lord who is righteous *"The Lord is righteous in all His ways"* (Ps. 145.17). They also declare that it is only those who are righteous who can approach the presence of the Lord and that righteousness is characterised by a blameless life, truthfulness and justice. *"Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart.."* (Ps. 15.2). *"For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face"* (Ps. 11.7).

Righteousness describes our relationship with God. William Barclay, in his translation of the New Testament, translates the word righteousness as 'right relationship'. *"...a new situation has arisen. The world has been shown a way of being put into a right relationship with God apart from any kind of law"* (Rom. 3.21). We know that we are unable to attain this right relationship with God by our own effort. Our model for righteousness is Abraham who *"believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness"* (Gen. 15.6). St. Paul, well versed in the law affirmed, *"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe"* (Rom. 3.22)

In teaching His disciples how to live, Jesus said *"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness"* (Matt. 6.33). Centuries before, David speaking of the Lord as a shepherd said, *"He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake"* (Ps. 23.3). Throughout scripture it is clear that those who live in righteousness - in a right relationship with God - will receive blessings and life: *"wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death"* (Prov. 11.4) and *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life"* (Prov. 11.30). Jesus said *"This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous"* (Matt. 13.49) and illustrated this further in the image of the sheep - the righteous - and the goats - the unrighteous (Matt. 25.31-46). The righteous were those that fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, invited in the stranger, clothed the naked, looked after the sick and visited those in prison; to them the King said, *"Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you"*.

Righteousness, therefore, does not only mean a right relationship with God, but also a right relationship with others, and indeed ourselves.

The righteousness of the people of God has a direct impact upon the nation in which they live. In addition, the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. As we look at the current situation in the UK we should take encouragement from Abraham's example. Because of his righteousness - his right relationship with God - he had the confidence to approach God and ask for mercy for a city. Unlike Sodom and Gomorrah, this nation has brought glory to God in the past. Let us, the people of God in the UK, pursue righteousness, ensuring that we are in a right relationship with Him and with one another, and praying with all our heart that righteousness will be restored in our land.

An update on 3s

At Quinta a Commission was set up to look at the development of the decision-making of the Community and explore the introduction of 3's as a way of organising and planning groups. The output of this Commission is still being worked through but significant progress is being made.

Changes made a while ago have been confirmed and the National Representatives meetings have been developed into Regional Gatherings. This format is intended to encourage a strong local two-way communication with each area of the Community.

Significant thought has been put into the meaning of membership of the

Community as we seek to listen to what God is saying to us about being aligned with one another and other external groups.

We have mapped all current Maranath planning groups and celebrate how God has brought us to our current format. We thank all existing groups for their continued work and aim to continue development from this base. It has become clear that some groups have run the course of their planned activities, but continuing groups include weekend planning, and communications management. The Parliamentary Team is being developed and new members have been asked to join.

Prophetic Words

Enlarge your tent
You have entered a season of growth
Move forward as an army
Advance into enemy territory
Consolidate the ground
Strengthen your spiritual foundations
Walk in step
Be in alignment,
allegiance and submission
Do not drift
Move resolutely under My direction
Respond to the Spirit's promptings
Do not rely on your own deliberations
Share more deeply with one another
Strengthen and encourage each other
Walk more closely with my Son
Come to the desert with Him
Climb the mountain with Him
Cross the waters with Him
Go through the fire with Him
Go to the poor with Him
God is speaking in my Son
Listen attentively.
Respond immediately.
Do not hold back.
Do not delay.
Do it now.
Move forward.
Be bold.
Be strong.
The Lord your God is with you.
I call you into being
for such a time as this.
(DW - 23rd April 2010)

Righteousness exalts a Nation

(Prov. 14.34)

The support and development of the local Community life structure will also be continued by an augmented group.

New groups being formed include prayer, spirituality, prophecy, men's meetings, and international development.

These changes will involve an enhanced group of National Coordinators to implement them.

Please pray for the dynamic of God's Spirit to lead this work so that we may always be responsive to His promptings with immediacy and without constraint.

If you would like to be more involved in any area of the life of the Community please contact Peter Williamson peter_williamson@dsl.pipex.com

Maranatha Community News

Malawi 2010

A 12-strong Maranatha team have just returned from Malawi. Fruitful meetings were held with the heads of the Anglican, Presbyterian, Assemblies of God and Roman Catholic churches. The oneness of the Body of Christ was central to our trip both within the team and with those we met. Each day we had morning and evening prayers. We shared with 13 different churches, led worship, preached, led Sunday School drama, and an open-air Maranatha event at the Presbyterian centre became an outreach with gifts of clothing and toys for 50 orphans. We made 'Gospel bead bracelets' with hundreds of children, shared about Mothers' Prayers and enjoyed a short safari and visit to the lake.

We were hosted by Bishop Mark and his team at CRMI (Charismatic Redeemed Ministries International).

Through an NGO of this church we met with representatives from 12 very poor villages. We held clinics in 3 villages with medicine and prayer and visited many other villages to share the Gospel message and to pray with people. There were miracles of healing and many gave their lives to Christ. 200 Shalom Prayers in the local language (Chichewa) were handed out. Donations from people at home resulted in practical gifts - water buckets, plates & dishes, corrugated iron for roofing - for the 12 villages and a bicycle ambulance for 3 villages to share.

Through Sonya, an Elim worker from Northern Ireland, we placed a sewing machine with a local lady, and provided craft material for pre and primary school children. Please pray for further development.

Developments in Anglesey

At the request of Christians in Anglesey an introductory Maranatha meeting was held during April in the chapel at Brynrefail. God has already inspired several people on the Island to form groups of prayer and there was a desire to link this prayer initiative with the Maranatha Community in some way. Please pray for this initiative.

Spotlight

In addition to this Newsletter, 'Spotlight' is published bi-monthly with news from members and local Maranatha groups. If you would like to receive a copy of 'Spotlight' please email Matthew Doherty on dohertys@talktalk.net

New Programme of

Regional Day Gatherings

For many years, representatives of Maranatha local groups together with those sharing responsibility for the life of the Community, met bi-monthly. These National Representatives meetings consist of news exchange and much prayer, and until two years ago were the decision-making forum for the Community. The responsibility for decisions now lies with the National Coordinators, which is being expanded, in conjunction with the Core Leadership, with input from those serving on relevant Working Groups and the Maranatha Trust. Since 2008 the National Representatives meetings have been held up and down the country to make them accessible to more members. These meetings will now become Maranatha Day Gatherings for the various regions of the country. They are open to anyone to share in fellowship, praise and ministry. The dates for the remainder of 2010 are:

17th July, Birmingham

25th September, London

20th November, Market Harborough

(10am for 10.30am - full details from the Maranatha Office - tel 0161 748 4858)

Persecution

We thank God for enabling us to make contact with all the groupings in the European Parliament and gaining their support for action to be taken against those in Northern Nigeria who are depriving Christians of their freedom. Please continue to pray for all our Christian brothers and sisters overseas.

Books by

Maranatha Members

'Mudge, Gill & Steve' (£4.95 + £1 P&P)

Jim Dainty, one of our National Coordinators, wrote a book (with an introduction by Rolf Harris) to share insights and possible solutions for questions related to death. He says "Children have many fears because their questions are often not heard and addressed. Children are no longer shielded from death. Some meet it in tragedies like the shootings in Cumbria, others through the death of a family member. All are exposed to violent deaths on a daily basis through the news media". This book (about Jim's dog, Mudge) was published a few years ago with a commendation by the Archbishop of York: "I am impressed by the work because it covers so many important facets of bereavement with such a lightness of touch and even humour ... I would commend the book as a useful tool for all clergy, schools, parents and carers dealing with children who have had experience of death". Copies available from the Maranatha bookshop.

'Digging Out the Embedded Church'

John Isherwood claims that the prayer of Jesus for the unity of believers is closer to being answered today than at anytime since Pentecost! The evidence is presented in this carefully researched book. He says "In this Centenary year of the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh (1910), this book is dedicated to all those pioneers of Christian Unity throughout the history of the Church who, beyond narrow interests and prejudices, glimpsed the vision of the body of Christ worshipping, witnessing and serving together in the Kingdom of God as Christ intended".

The book can be downloaded for free from the Maranatha website at:

www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/pdf/A-History-of-Christian-Unity.pdf

What is a Maranatha member?

A follower of Jesus without a label.

A listening pilgrim.

A wounded minister of healing.

One who shares in the prayer of Jesus that we be one.

One who proclaims the Lordship of Jesus in their life.

A believer who prays and acts for justice.

One who prays 'Come, Lord Jesus'.

YOUR MAJESTY

*We are subject to Your Majesty
We are subject to Your glory
Your glory is as high as the heavens
and though we are as yet
earthbound
You promise us
to be partakers in Your glory.
Spirit of God
You are the mediator
between heaven and earth.
In the power of Jesus You touch us
and bring us to the live knowledge
of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
You fill our being with Godly things
and burn up the chaff until
we are pure.*

(Sr. Elizabeth Tuttle)

Maranatha Events Calendar

Have you considered sponsoring someone for a Maranatha weekend or retreat? Please contact the Maranatha office.



There are only two kinds of people, those who say to God 'Thy will be done' and those to whom God says, 'All right, then, have it your way'.
C. S. Lewis

Weekends in 2010

Joining Heaven and Earth in Worship

23 - 25 Jul - Formby

Turning Stress into Opportunity for Healing

17 - 19 Sep - Bawtry Hall, Doncaster

Listening to God

22 - 24 Oct - Loreto Centre, Llandudno

Retreats in 2010

Light out of Darkness

4 - 9 Oct - Loreto Centre, Llandudno

Waiting for God in the Desert

4 - 9 Oct - Loreto Centre, Llandudno

Living in the Father's House

13 - 16 Oct - The Ark, Flixton, Manchester

Out of the Courtroom

27 - 30 Oct - Yealmpton, Plymouth

Prayer Week in 2010

Praying for the Church and our Nation

18 - 25 Sep - Kalah House, Helmsdale, Scotland

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email, saving the Community some money, please send an email to charles@maranathacommunity.org.uk

The Maranatha Website

The website, which has been live for just over a year now, continues to attract new members to both the Community and Trumpet Call. Some exciting new developments are underway, including an Audio-Visual Gallery, Group Locator, and SmartSearch, so you can easily find what you're looking. In the previous year, we've attracted 12,634 visits from 112 different countries from Armenia to Zimbabwe, from Argentina to New Zealand. This is a huge encouragement as our primary aim is to spread the vision - over half of the visits have come from people using search engines. We hope to continue developing this vital tool for spreading the Maranatha Vision - watch this space!

Maranatha Groups & Contacts

Maranatha Community members pray for one another daily, especially at 10pm.

England

AYLESBURY 1st Mon. monthly, 8pm

BELDREY Tuesday, monthly, 2.30pm

BICESTER 1st Tues. monthly, 7.45pm,
BIRMINGHAM NORTH

BIRMINGHAM SOUTH

BODMIN Thurs. weekly, 2pm,

BRIGG, 3rd Tues. monthly, 7.30pm,

BURY ST. EDMUND, 1st Sat. monthly, 7.30pm

CHISWICK 2nd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm

DEAL, KENT

EASTLEIGH / SOUTHAMPTON, Quarterly

ECKINGTON, PERSHORE 3rd Thurs. monthly,
7.30pm

FALMOUTH

GRAVESEND 3rd Tues. monthly

GRIMSBY

HALIFAX / HUDDERSFIELD 4th Wed. monthly, 8pm

HARROGATE 1st Friday monthly, 7.30pm

HAYWARDS HEATH 1st Tues. monthly, 8pm,

LEEDS 1st Tues. monthly, 7.30pm

LEICESTER 4th Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

LINCOLN 1st Mon. monthly, 7pm

LONDON Bi-monthly,

MACCLESFIELD 2nd Wed. monthly, 7.45pm,

MANCHESTER, DAVYHULME 'First Sunday' monthly,
8pm

MANCHESTER, FLIXTON 3rd Fri. monthly, 8pm

MANCHESTER, CENTRAL Bi-monthly,

MARKET HARBOROUGH last Fri. monthly, 10am,
MATLOCK

NOTTINGHAM 3rd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm

PLYMOUTH 3rd Tues. monthly, 7.30pm

PORTSMOUTH

SCUNTHORPE 3rd Thurs. monthly, 7pm

SHEFFIELD 2nd Sat. monthly, 4pm

ST. AUSTELL 2nd Fri. monthly

SUDBURY SUFFOLK 3rd Tues monthly, 7pm

TAUNTON 3rd Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

THE MARCHES, SHROPSHIRE, Bi-monthly, 12.30-
4.30pm

TWICKENHAM 3rd Tues. monthly, 8pm

WAKEFIELD, 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

WATERLOOVILLE 3rd Thurs. monthly, 10.15am,

WEST DARTMOOR 2nd Sat. monthly

WEST WILTSHIRE (WESTBURY) 1st Mon. monthly,
7.45pm

WIRRAL Bi-monthly, 10.30-4pm

Scotland

HELMSDALE Fri. evenings, 7pm

MAYBOLE, AYSHIRE Every Tues. a.m.
Ellen Hawkes 01655 882747

Wales

CONWY 1st Wed. bi-monthly, 10.30-3pm

MOLD 1st Mon. monthly, 7.30pm

Northern Ireland

BELFAST 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

Uganda

JINJA Godfrey Mwase:

godfrey_tastenseecafe@yahoo.com

KAMPALA Deo Kabiswa: kabiswa2000@yahoo.com

ENTEBBE Asher Kalema: lifegospelchurch@yahoo.com

Youth Group

LEICESTER 3rd Fri. monthly

Credo

Annamarie Moran:

annmarie@maranathacommunity.org.uk

Maranatha National Co-ordinators

Rob Davies

Jim Dainty

Peter de Bourcier

Mike Kendrick

Gaye Colleran

Prayer Cells Co-ordinator

Hazel Catton

Contact details

For contact details for any of the above Maranatha Groups and people, please contact the Maranatha Office:
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maranatha community

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